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Introduction to the Natural History of Language. By T. G. TUCKER, Professor of Classical Philology in the University of Melbourne. London: Blackie & Son, 1908. Pp. xii+465. \$3.78 net, imported.

This volume is of interest to classical students for two reasons; in general, because linguistic science is so closely connected in origin and development with the history of classical philology, and in particular, because the author is a well-known classical scholar. We are all familiar with his *Life in Ancient Athens* and his various editions of Greek authors, but it is perhaps not widely known that he is an Australian representative on the Simplified Spelling Board. The English type of scholarship always commands our admiration because of its power of correlating into one united whole so many fields of knowledge which an age of specialization has tended to disconnect and segregate.

The purpose of the author has been to give a general survey of the whole field of linguistic science—glottology, the term preferred by the author (pp. 6, 10), will hardly meet with wide acceptance among the devotees of the science—and, what is far more difficult, to present the results in a readable form. In its scope the work is the most ambitious that has appeared in English for a long time. There are many unnecessary details for a popular book, and it is hard to see why so much space (a fourth of the whole volume) should be given up to a "General Survey of Languages" containing numerous catalogues of tongues which are extremely dull to the general reader while at the same time they are insufficient for the specialist. It may not be "necessary at this date to give a history of linguistic science" (p. vii), but certainly no chapter would have been more fascinating or instructive to the casual reader, and we regard its omission as a serious one.

The contents of the book fall into seventeen chapters, as follows: I, "The Nature and Scope of the Subject"; II, "Phonology"; III, "Speech and Writing"; IV, V, VI, "Classification of Language"; VII, VIII, IX, "General Survey of Languages"; X, "Race and Language"; XI, "Original Seat and Diffusion of the Indo-European"; XII, "Phonetic Change"; XIII, "Phonetic Laws"; XIV, "General Phonetic Tendencies in Language"; XV, "Application of Phonology to Etymologies"; XVI, "Changes of Meaning"; XVII, "The Development of Language."

Material has been brought together from various and conflicting sources with the result that we find occasional inconsistencies, while on every hand corrective or alternative names and expressions are offered the reader to his great annoyance. In some cases where a short time ago a variety of forms might be found for the same name, today usage has fixed upon some particular one and we rebel at any other. Examples to the point are: Aramaean (pp. 56, 67), but the usual Aramaic elsewhere; Sumerian (p. 55), but Shumerian (p. 152); Gothic or Gotic (p. 213); Wiking (p. 214); Erania and Eranian constantly with two exceptions, etc.

In spite of the many misprints and occasional errors, especially in connection with Sanskrit, the work is perhaps the best in English for orientation. The chapter on "Phonology" gives an excellent sketch for a beginner in phonetics. Finally, the exposition of Grimm's Law is the clearest we have met with in any handbook.

G. C. SCOGGIN

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Six Essays on the Platonic Theory of Knowledge as Expounded in the Later Dialogues and Reviewed by Aristotle. By MARIE V. WILLIAMS, Newman College. Cambridge: University Press; New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908. Pp. viii+133.

The author sees in the supposed later works of Plato a fuller development and elaboration of the ideal scheme which was at first vaguely sketched. She assumes that the *Parmenides*, *Theatetus*, *Sophist*, *Politicus*, *Philebus*, and *Timaeus* are later than the *Republic* and *Phaedo*. These essays are the outcome of an attempt of the author to satisfy herself, by independent investigation, as to the doctrines that the later dialogues seem to teach. They are quite readable, and the views are clearly stated and are very creditable as an independent piece of study, though the author freely admits her indebtedness to other Cambridge scholars.

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The Silvae of Statius. Translated with Introduction and Notes by D. A. SLATER. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1908. Pp. 214.

The study of Statius' *Silvae* has made substantial advances in the last twelve years. In 1898 Vollmer published his commentary; in 1900 Klotz' critical edition appeared in the Teubner series; in 1904 Phillimore's edition in the "Bibliotheca Oxoniensis"; and in 1905 the edition of Davies and Postgate in the second volume of the "Corpus Poetarum Latinorum."

Slater has done his work well. The introductory essay is interesting and suggestive, and the translation maintains a high standard of excellence. Some scholars will dissent from the readings adopted in numerous passages of the text, and a still larger number will doubt the correctness of the translation in many verses; but this is inevitable in any translation of the *Silvae*. Not only does the text present problems of unusual difficulty, but the poet's meaning, even where the text is not open to suspicion, is frequently so obscure that the right translation is a matter of uncertainty.

In his Introduction the translator has done a real service to Statius criticism in pointing out the unfairness of Nisard's critique (*Études sur les poètes latins de la décadence*) and in commenting on the haphazard character of Tyrrell's estimate (*Latin Poetry*, pp. 283 f.). On the other hand, the eulogy of Politian that "for epic power, for variety of theme, for skill, for knowledge of places and legends, history and custom, for command of recondite learning and the